

WILD MEADOWS I SUBDIVISION. (PWSNO 1090155)
SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT REPORT

April 23, 2002



State of Idaho
Department of Environmental Quality

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Executive Summary

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative sensitivity to contaminants regulated by the act. This risk assessment is based on a land use inventory in the well recharge zone, sensitivity factors associated with how the well was constructed, and aquifer characteristics.

This report, *Source Water Assessment for Wild Meadows I Subdivision*, describes the public drinking water well; the well recharge zone and potential contaminant sites located inside the recharge zone boundaries.

This assessment, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, should be used as a planning tool to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this public water system. **The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

A single 260-foot deep well drawing from the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer supplies drinking water for Wild Meadows I Subdivision. The water system serves a population of about 28 people in rural Bonner County, Idaho. Historically, Wild Meadows I Subdivision has had few water quality problems. A ground water Susceptibility Analysis conducted by DEQ March 19, 2002, found the wells to be at moderate risk for microbial and inorganic chemical contamination, mostly because of natural factors associated with local geology. The well automatically ranked highly susceptible to synthetic and volatile organic chemical contamination because of fuel storage for a back up generator in the pump house within 50 feet of the well. The system has already taken steps to mitigate this risk by installing a spill containment structure around the generator and its fuel supply.

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require education and surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

For a small system like Wild Meadows I Subdivision, drinking water protection activities should focus first on maintaining the area immediately around the well as an area free from the use or storage of chemicals like pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. It is important to keep livestock away from the wellhead. Water customers should be educated about the danger of back siphonage from stock tanks and automatic sprinklers, and should be encouraged to install back flow prevention devices.

Because 186 public water systems in Idaho draw water from the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, they should consider forming a regional group to represent their interests before state, county and municipal governing bodies when regulatory tools like zoning overlays, or enactment of building codes are the most appropriate ground water protection measures. Partnerships with state and local agencies and industry groups should also be established.

Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, source water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term. For assistance in developing protection strategies, please contact your regional Department of Environmental Quality office or the Idaho Rural Water Association.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FOR WILD MEADOWS I SUBDIVISION.

Section 1. Introduction - Basis for Assessment

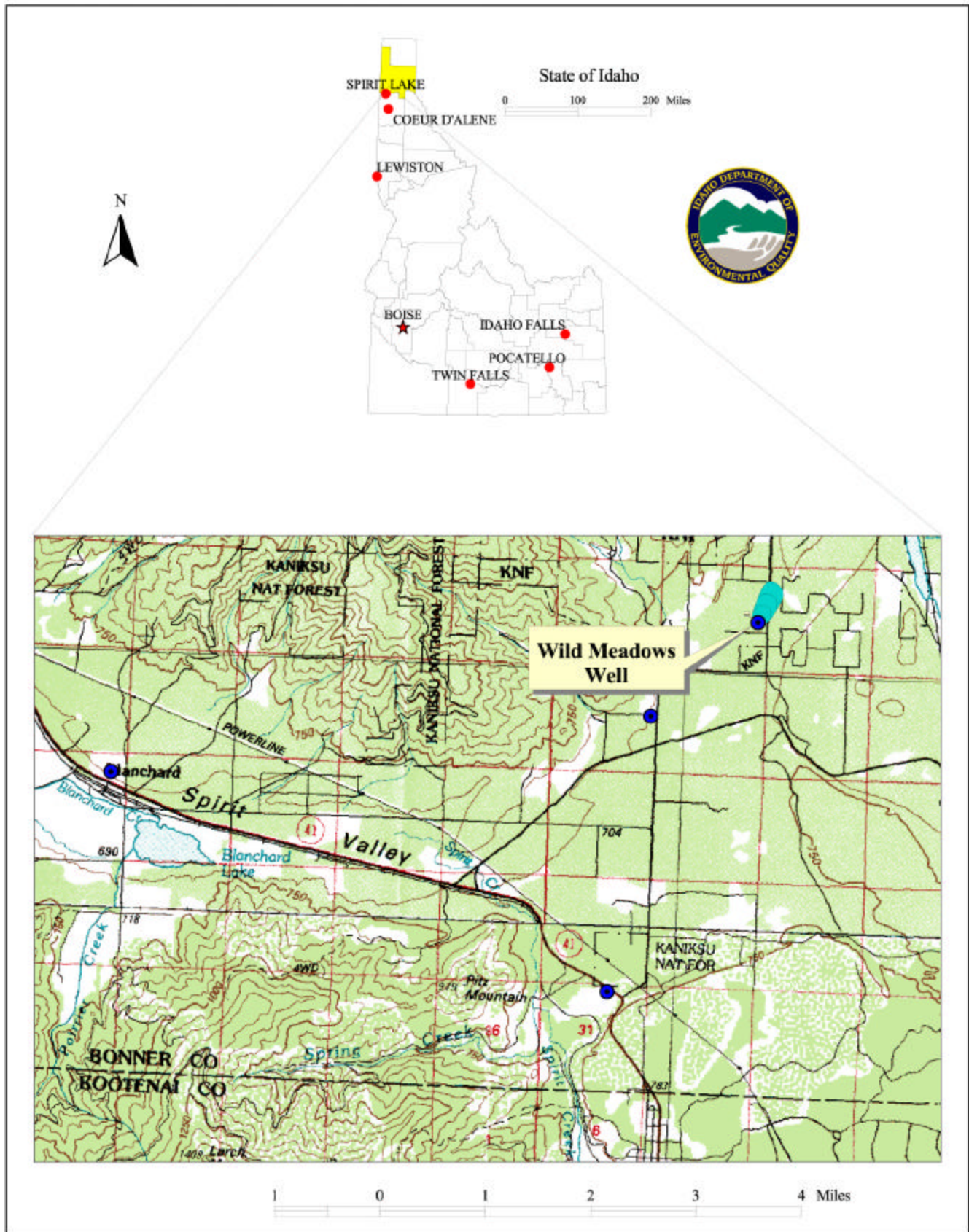
The following sections contain information necessary for understanding how and why this assessment was conducted. **It is important to review this information to understand what the ranking of this source means.** A map showing the delineated source water assessment area and an inventory of significant potential sources of contamination identified within that area are included. The ground water susceptibility analysis worksheets used to develop this assessment are attached.

Level of Accuracy and Purpose of the Assessment

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess every public drinking water source in Idaho for its relative susceptibility to contaminants regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. These assessments are based on a land use inventory inside the delineated recharge zones, sensitivity factors associated with how the well is constructed, and aquifer characteristics. The state must complete more than 2900 assessments by May of 2003. Because resources and the time available to accomplish assessments are limited, an in-depth, site-specific investigation for every public water system is not possible.

The results of the source water assessment should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system The ultimate goal of this assessment is to provide data to local communities for developing a protection strategy for their drinking water supply. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality recognizes that pollution prevention activities generally require less time and money to implement than treating a public water supply system once it has been contaminated. DEQ encourages communities to balance resource protection with economic growth and development. The decision as to the amount and types of information necessary to develop a source water protection program should be determined by the local community based on its own needs and limitations. Wellhead or source water protection is one facet of a comprehensive growth plan, and it can complement ongoing local planning efforts.

Figure 1. Geographic Location of Wild Meadows I Subdivision



Section 2. Preparing for the Assessment

Defining the Zones of Contribution - Delineation

The delineation process establishes the physical area around a well that will become the focal point of the assessment. The process includes mapping the boundaries of the well recharge area into time of travel zones indicating the number of years necessary for a particle of water to reach a well. DEQ used a refined computer model approved by the EPA to determine well recharge area boundaries and times of travel (TOT) for public water systems pumping from the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. The computer model used data assimilated by DEQ from a variety of sources including local well logs.

The Wild Meadows I Subdivision public water system serves 28 people located in a rural neighborhood about 5 miles north east of Spirit Lake, Idaho. (Figure 1). A 260-foot deep well with an estimated capacity of 100 GPM supplies drinking water for Wild Meadows I Subdivision customers.

The delineated source water assessment area for the Wild Meadows I Subdivision well is about 2300 feet long. Water flows to the well from the northeast. The 6 to 10 year time of travel zone is about 1200 feet wide. The delineation narrows to about 900 feet in the 0-3 year time of travel zone (Figure 2).

Identifying Potential Sources of Contamination

The goal of the inventory process is to locate and describe those facilities, land uses, and environmental conditions that are potential sources of ground water contamination. Inventories for public water systems in Idaho are conducted in two-phases. The first phase involved identifying and documenting potential contaminant sources within the source water assessment area through the use of computer databases and Geographic Information System maps developed by DEQ. The map and inventory are then sent to the water system for review.

Figure 2, *Wild Meadows I Subdivision. Delineation and Potential Contaminant Inventory* on page 7 of this report shows the location of the Wild Meadows I Subdivision well, and the zone of contribution DEQ delineated for it.

Many potential sources of contamination are regulated at the federal level, state level, or both to reduce the risk of release. When a business, facility, or property is identified as a potential contaminant source, this should not be interpreted to mean that this business, facility, or property is in violation of any local, state, or federal environmental law or regulation. What it does mean is that the potential for contamination exists due to the nature of the business, industry, or operation.

Section 3. Susceptibility Analysis

The susceptibility to contamination of all ground water sources in Idaho is being assessed on the following factors:

- physical integrity of the well,
- hydrologic characteristics,
- land use characteristics, and potentially significant contaminant sources
- historic water quality

The susceptibility rankings are specific to a particular potential contaminant or category of contaminants. A high susceptibility rating relative to one potential contaminant does not mean that the water system is at the same risk for all other potential contaminants. The relative ranking that is derived for each well is a qualitative, screening-level step that, in many cases, uses generalized assumptions and best professional judgement. The following summaries describe the rationale for the susceptibility ranking. The Susceptibility Analysis Worksheet in Attachment A shows in detail how the Wild Meadows I Subdivision well scored.

Well Construction

Well construction directly affects the ability of the wells to protect the aquifer from contaminants. Lower scores imply a well that can better protect the water. This portion of the susceptibility analysis relies on information from individual well logs and from the most recent sanitary survey of the public water system.

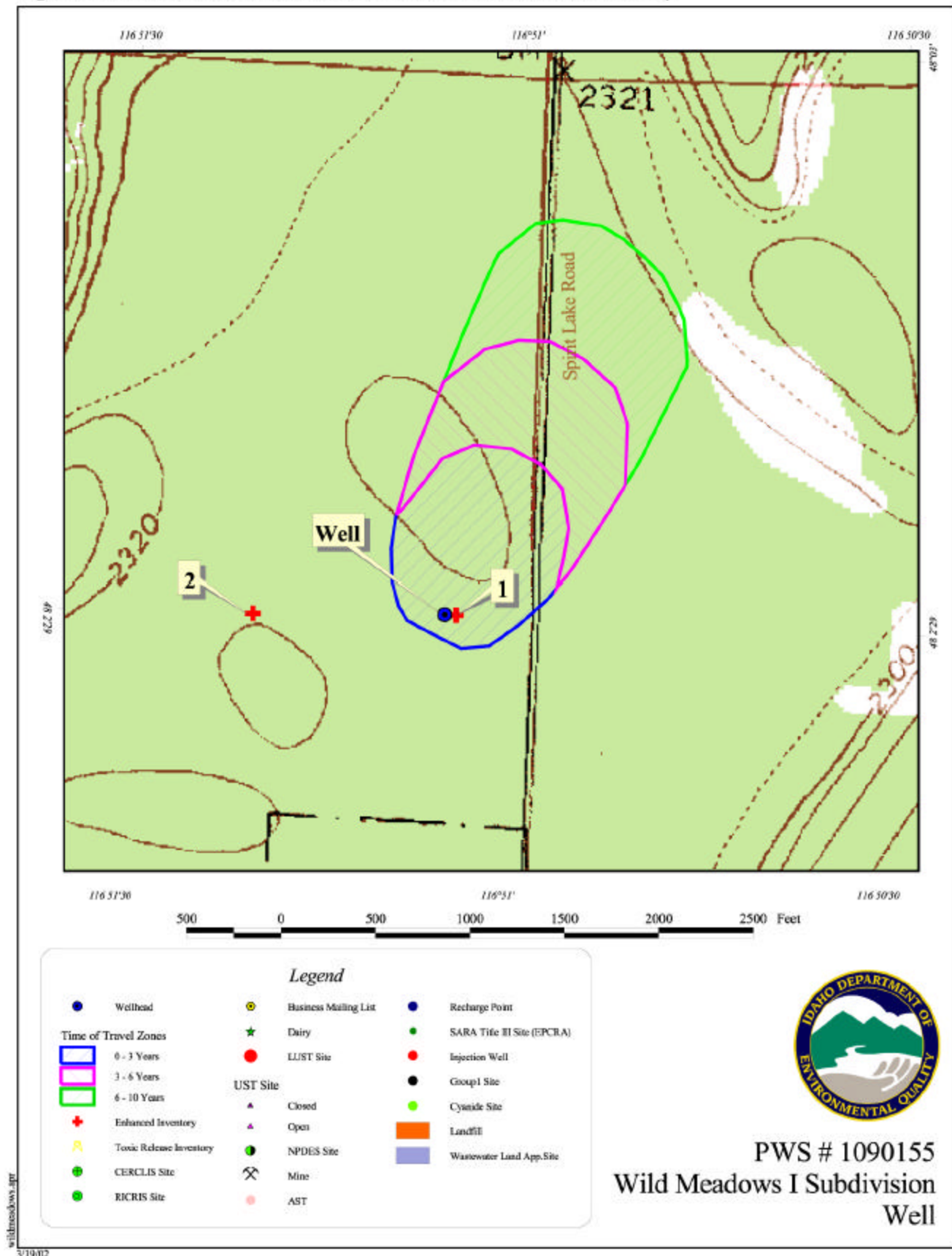
The Wild Meadows I Subdivision drinking water system relies on a single well extracting ground water for irrigation and domestic uses. No treatment is required before the water enters the distribution system. Deficiencies noted on the June 30, 1999 Sanitary Survey of the Wild Meadows system were remedied by the end of September 1999, bringing the system into full compliance with *Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems*.

Points were marked against the well in this portion of the susceptibility analysis because the seal and casing terminate in permeable, unconsolidated soil strata typical of the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. The surface seal depth, 18 feet, does not meet the required depth of 20 feet required for surface seals for public drinking water wells drilled in unconsolidated formations. Table 1 summarizes construction and site characteristics for the well.

Table 1. Selected Construction Characteristics of Wild Meadows I Subdivision. Well

Well	Total Depth (ft.)	Depth of Surface Seal (ft)	Depth of Casing (ft)	Depth Range of Perforations (ft)	Static Water Level (ft)
Well #1	260	18	260	250 to 260	200

Figure 2. Wild Meadows I Subdivision Delineation and Potential Contaminant Inventory.



Hydrologic Sensitivity

The hydrologic sensitivity score for the Wild Meadows I Subdivision well was 6 points out six points possible. The score reflects natural geologic conditions at the well site and in the recharge zone. The soils in the recharge zone as a whole are well drained. Poorly drained to moderately well drained soils are deemed more protective of ground water than soils which drain faster. Sand, gravel and boulders fill the soil strata between the topsoil and the water table, which stands 200 feet below the surface at the well site. There is no layer of clay or other fine grained soil to retard the vertical transport of contaminants.

Potential Contaminant Sources and Land Use

Land use within The Wild Meadows I Subdivision well recharge zone is undeveloped woodland and rural residential. Roads near the well and crossing the delineation boundaries appear to carry low volume of local traffic with little potential for spills from vehicles carrying hazardous materials or petroleum products. Sanitary surveys of the Wild Meadows I Subdivision water system have noted the presence of fuel for a back up generator stored inside the pump house and less than 50 feet from the well. No livestock are pastured near the well.

The only other potential contaminant source in the vicinity is a proposed metal fabricating shop about 1000 feet west of the well. This location is outside of the delineation boundaries.

Table 2. Wild Meadows I Subdivision Potential Contaminant Inventory

MAP ID NUMBER	SITE DESCRIPTION	SOURCE OF INFORMATION	POTENTIAL CONTAMINANTS ¹
1	Fuel Storage for Generator	Sanitary Survey	SOC, VOC
2	Metal Fabricator	Enhanced Inventory	IOC, VOC

¹ IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

Historic Water Quality

Wild Meadows I Subdivision tests monthly for total coliform bacteria. Positive samples from the well tap in October and November 1997 were not confirmed by subsequent testing. Table 3 summarizes chemical and radiological test results for Wild Meadows I Subdivision.

Table 3. Wild Meadows I Subdivision Chemical Test Results

Primary IOC Contaminants (Mandatory Tests)							
Contaminant	MCL (mg/l)	Results (mg/l)	Dates	Contaminant	MCL (mg/l)	Results (mg/l)	Dates
Antimony	0.006	ND	4/24/96, 3/25/99	Nitrate	10	ND TO 0.50	11/8/94 to 5/30/01
Arsenic	0.01	ND	4/24/96, 3/25/99	Nickel	N/A	ND	4/24/96, 3/25/99
Barium	2	ND, 0.02	4/24/96, 3/25/99	Selenium	0.05	ND	4/24/96, 3/25/99
Beryllium	0.004	ND	4/24/96, 3/25/99	Sodium	N/A	3.4, 3.97	4/24/96, 3/25/99
Cadmium	0.005	ND	4/24/96, 3/25/99	Thallium	0.002	ND	4/24/96, 3/25/99
Chromium	0.1	ND	4/24/96, 3/25/99	Cyanide	0.02	--	
Mercury	0.002	ND	4/24/96, 3/25/99	Fluoride	4.0	ND	4/24/96, 3/25/99

Table 3. Wild Meadows I Subdivision Chemical Test Results continued

Secondary and Other IOC Contaminants (Optional Tests)			
Contaminant	Recommended Maximum (mg/l)	Results (mg/l)	Dates
Sulfate		7.2	3/18/99
Regulated and Unregulated Synthetic Organic Chemicals			
Contaminant		Results	Dates
29 Regulated and 13 Unregulated Synthetic Organic Compounds		None Detected	10/28/94, 5/12/98
Regulated and Unregulated Volatile Organic Chemicals			
Contaminant		Results	Dates
21 Regulated And 16 Unregulated Volatile Organic Compounds		None Detected	10/28/94, 5/12/98
Radiological Contaminants			
Contaminant	MCL	Results	Dates
Gross Alpha, Including Ra & U	15 pC/l	0.3	10/20/2000
Gross Beta Particle Activity	4 mrem/year	1.7 , 2.0	5/8/1996, 10/20/2000

Final Susceptibility Ranking

The Wild Meadows I Subdivision well automatically ranked highly susceptible to volatile and synthetic organic chemicals because of the presence of a fuel storage tank inside the sanitary setback zone. The system has already recognized this threat to their well and has installed a containment structure around the back up generator and its fuel supply. Vulnerability to contamination with microbials or inorganic chemicals is moderate. Most of the points marked against the well are due to natural risk factors associated with the geology of the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. Total scores in each category are summarized on Table 4. The complete analysis worksheet for the well is in Attachment A.

The final scores for the susceptibility analysis were determined using the following formulas:

- 1) VOC/SOC/IOC Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.2)
- 2) Microbial Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.35)

The final ranking categories are as follows:

- 0 - 5 Low Susceptibility
- 6 - 12 Moderate Susceptibility
- > 13 High Susceptibility

Table 4. Summary of Wild Meadows I Subdivision Susceptibility Evaluation

Cumulative Susceptibility Scores						
Well Name	System Construction	Hydrologic Sensitivity	Contaminant Inventory			
			IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbial
Well #1	4	6	0	*High	*High	0
Final Susceptibility Scores/Ranking						
	IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbial		
Well #1	10/Moderate	*High	*High	10/Moderate		

*High because of presence of potential contaminant source inside sanitary setback zone.

IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

Section 4. Options for Source Water Protection

The susceptibility assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what the susceptibility ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require education and surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

An effective drinking water protection program is tailored to the particular source water protection area. The state and local health districts have instituted enhanced protection of the ground water in the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer because of its high use and uniquely pristine water quality. The protections are generally aquifer wide and are not aimed at zones of contribution to a specific well or water system. *The Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Atlas*, sent to water systems on the prairie when they were invited to perform an enhanced contaminant inventory, describes some of the regional protection measures.

The 186 public water systems in Idaho that draw water from the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer should consider forming a regional group to represent their interests before state, county and municipal governing bodies when regulatory tools like zoning overlays, or enactment of building codes are the most appropriate ground water protection measures. These types of measures could be used to protect the capture zones of a specific system or group of wells that could be put at risk from local land use changes.

In its own service area, Wild Meadows I Subdivision can protect its drinking water by continuing to maintain and upgrade the system as recommended by periodic sanitary inspection reports. Repairs completed in September 1999 brought the system into full compliance with *Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems*. Water users can be invited to participate in voluntary ground water protection activities like household hazardous materials collection days. People connected to the system should be warned about the danger of back siphonage from the distribution system into the well during periods of low pressure. In a rural neighborhood back flow from stock tanks and irrigation systems is a particular concern. Installation of back flow prevention devices should be encouraged.

Partnerships with state and local agencies and industry groups should also be established. For instance the County Extension office is good sources of information about proper use of household pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. Brochures about septic tank maintenance, another important topic in a rural area, are available from the health department. Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, drinking water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term.

Assistance

Public water suppliers and users may call the following IDEQ offices with questions about this assessment and to request assistance with developing and implementing a local protection plan. In addition, draft protection plans may be submitted to the IDEQ office for preliminary review and comments.

Coeur d'Alene Regional DEQ Office (208) 769-1422

State IDEQ Office (208) 373-0502

Website: <http://www.deq.state.id.us>

Water suppliers serving fewer than 10,000 persons may contact John Bokor, Idaho Rural Water Association, at (208) 343-7001 for assistance with wellhead protection strategies.

References Cited

Great Lakes-Upper Mississippi River Board of State and Provincial Public Health and Environmental Managers, 1997. "Recommended Standards for Water Works."

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Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 2000. City of Fruitland Wellhead Viability Project 319 Grant Final Report July 2000.

Idaho Department of Water Resources, 1993. Administrative Rules of the Idaho Water Resource Board: Well Construction Standards Rules. IDAPA 37.03.09.

Natural Resource Conservation Service, 1991. Idaho Snake-Payette Rivers Hydrologic Unit Plan of Work. March 1991.

United States Geological Survey, 1986. Quality of Ground Water in the Payette River Basin, Idaho. United States Geological Survey. Water Resources Investigation Report 86-4013.

University of Idaho. 1986. Ground Water Resources in a Portion of Payette County, Idaho. Idaho Water Resources Research Institute. University of Idaho. Moscow, Idaho. April 1986.

Attachment A

Wild Meadows I Subdivision. Susceptibility Analysis Worksheet

Ground Water Susceptibility

Public Water System Name : **WILD MEADOWS I SUBD**

Source: **WELL #1**

Public Water System Number : **1090155**

3/19/02 8:18:30 AM

1. System Construction		SCORE			
Drill Date	11/15/72				
Driller Log Available	YES				
Sanitary Survey (if yes, indicate date of last survey)	YES 1999				
Well meets IDWR construction standards	NO	1			
Wellhead and surface seal maintained	YES	0			
Casing and annular seal extend to low permeability unit	NO	2			
Highest production 100 feet below static water level	NO	1			
Well located outside the 100 year flood plain	YES	0			
Total System Construction Score		4			
2. Hydrologic Sensitivity					
Soils are poorly to moderately drained	NO	2			
Vadose zone composed of gravel, fractured rock or unknown	YES	1			
Depth to first water > 300 feet	NO	1			
Aquitard present with > 50 feet cumulative thickness	NO	2			
Total Hydrologic Score		6			
3. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A (Sanitary Setback)		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbial
		Score	Score	Score	Score
Land Use Zone 1A	RURAL RESIDENTIAL	0	0	0	0
Farm chemical use high	NO	0	0	0	
IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A	YES FUEL & LUBRICANTS IN PUMPHOUSE	NO	YES	YES	NO
Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A		0	0	0	0
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B (3 YR. TOT)					
Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)	NO	0	0	0	0
(Score = # Sources X 2) 8 Points Maximum		0	0	0	0
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or Microbials	NO	0	0	0	
4 Points Maximum		0	0	0	
Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area	NO	0	0	0	0
Land use Zone 1B	Less Than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	0
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B		0	0	0	0
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE II (6 YR. TOT)					
Contaminant Sources Present	NO	0	0	0	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or Microbials	NO	0	0	0	
Land Use Zone II	Less than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	
Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone II		0	0	0	0
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE III (10 YR. TOT)					
Contaminant Source Present	NO	0	0	0	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or Microbials	NO	0	0	0	
Is there irrigated agricultural lands that occupy > 50% of Zone	NO	0	0	0	
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone III		0	0	0	0
Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score		0	0	0	0
4. Final Susceptibility Source Score		10	10	10	10
5. Final Well Ranking		Moderate	*High	*High	Moderate

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT INVENTORY

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

AST (Aboveground Storage Tanks) – Sites with aboveground storage tanks.

BML (Business Mailing List)– This list contains potential contaminant sites identified through a yellow pages database search of standard industry codes (SIC).

CERCLIS – This includes sites considered for listing under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, more commonly known as Superfund is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites that are on the national priority list (NPL).

Cyanide Site – DEQ permitted and known historical sites/facilities using cyanide.

Dairy – Sites included in the primary contaminant source inventory represent those facilities regulated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and may range from a few head to several thousand head of milking cows.

Deep Injection Well – Injection wells regulated under the Idaho Department of Water Resources generally for the disposal of stormwater runoff or agricultural field drainage.

Enhanced Inventory – Enhanced inventory locations are potential contaminant source sites added by the water system. These can include new sites not captured during the primary contaminant inventory, or corrected locations for sites not properly located during the primary contaminant inventory. Enhanced inventory sites can also include miscellaneous sites added by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) during the primary contaminant inventory.

Floodplain – This is a coverage of the 100year floodplains.

Group 1 Sites – These are sites that show elevated levels of contaminants and are not within the priority one areas.

Inorganic Priority Area – Priority one areas where greater than 25% of the wells/springs show constituents higher than primary standards or other health standards.

Landfill – Areas of open and closed municipal and non-municipal landfills.

LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with leaking underground storage tanks as regulated under RCRA.

Mines and Quarries – Mines and quarries permitted through the Idaho Department of Lands.)

Nitrate Priority Area – Area where greater than 25% of wells/springs show nitrate values above 5mg/l.

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) – Sites with NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires that any discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source must be authorized by an NPDES permit.

Organic Priority Areas – These are any areas where greater than 25 % of wells/springs show levels greater than 1% of the primary standard or other health standards.

Recharge Point – This includes active, proposed, and possible recharge sites on the Snake River Plain.

RICRIS – Site regulated under **Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)**. RCRA is commonly associated with the cradle to grave management approach for generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

SARA Tier II (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities) – These sites store certain types and amounts of hazardous materials and must be identified under the Community Right to Know Act.

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) – The toxic release inventory list was developed as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (Community Right to Know) Act passed in 1986. The Community Right to Know Act requires the reporting of any release of a chemical found on the TRI list.

Closed Or Open UST (Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with underground storage tanks regulated as regulated under RCRA.

Wastewater Land Applications Sites – These are areas where the land application of municipal or industrial wastewater is permitted by DEQ.

Wellheads – These are drinking water well locations regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are not treated as potential contaminant sources.

NOTE: Many of the potential contaminant sources were located using a geocoding program where mailing addresses are used to locate a facility. Field verification of potential contaminant sources is an important element of an enhanced inventory.

Where possible, a list of potential contaminant sites unable to be located with geocoding will be provided to water systems to determine if the potential contaminant sources are located within the source water assessment area.